

Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for consultation

January 2018

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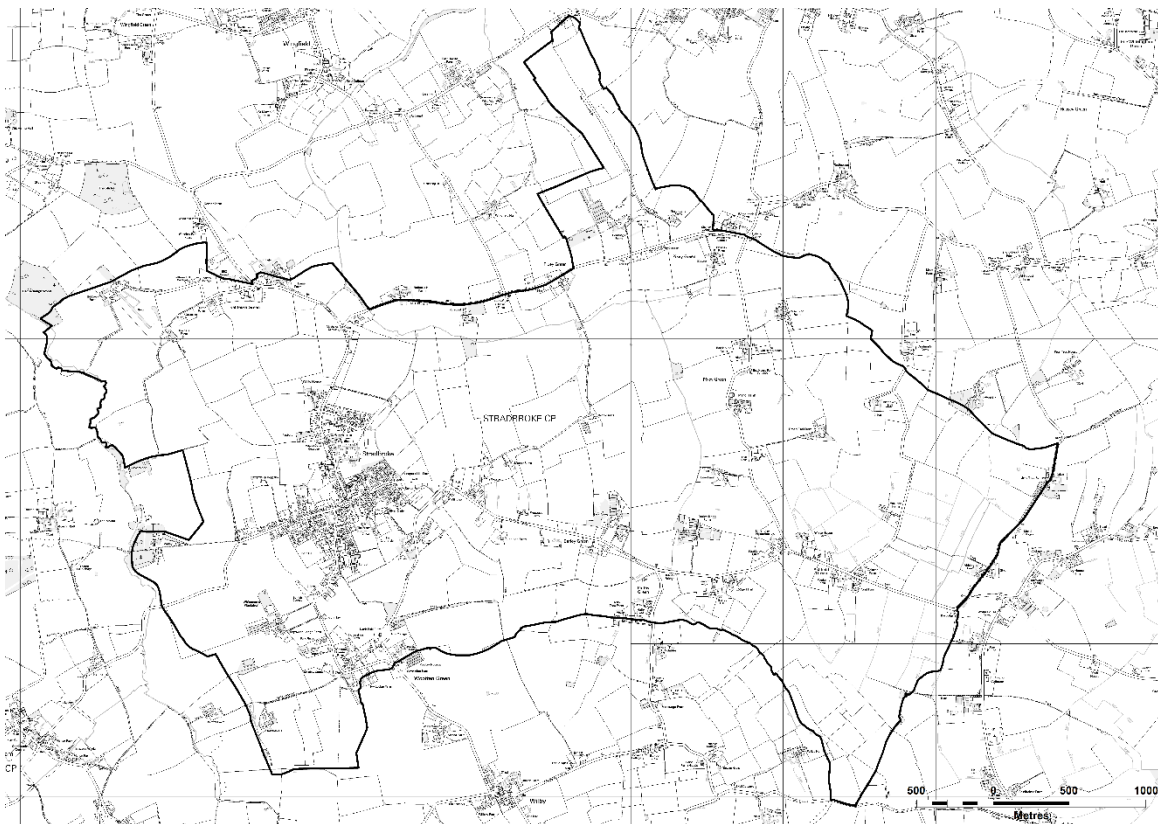
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the content of the Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.2 The Neighbourhood Plan covers a 20-year period from 2017 to 2036.
- 1.3 The designated Stradbroke Neighbourhood Area is shown in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1: Stradbroke Neighbourhood Area



- 1.4 The purpose of the Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan is to provide for the sustainable development of Stradbroke to make it a key service centre village for residents and surrounding villages. To do this, it seeks to phase the provision of good quality housing, educational facilities, business and local retail opportunities through a set of place and people-focused objectives.

1.5 The objectives are:

Place

- Infrastructure and services: support the community of Stradbroke with first rate infrastructure that includes an expanded range of utilities, improved highways, telecom and internet services.
- Built environment: allocate sites for development that retain the historic crossroads shape and character of the village and manage parking and traffic issues.
- Transport and movement: mitigate and manage critical highway pinch points and reduce travel by car or lorry within the village by improving internal connectivity and alternative travel options.
- Business: support local business growth and employment opportunities and actively seek further employment generating opportunities which directly contribute to the welfare of the community.
- Design: ensure development respects the historical build pattern and style whilst also encouraging design for the future through innovation.
- Environment: promote community safety including issues of pollution, the green economy and protect and nurture green spaces and assets of community value.

People

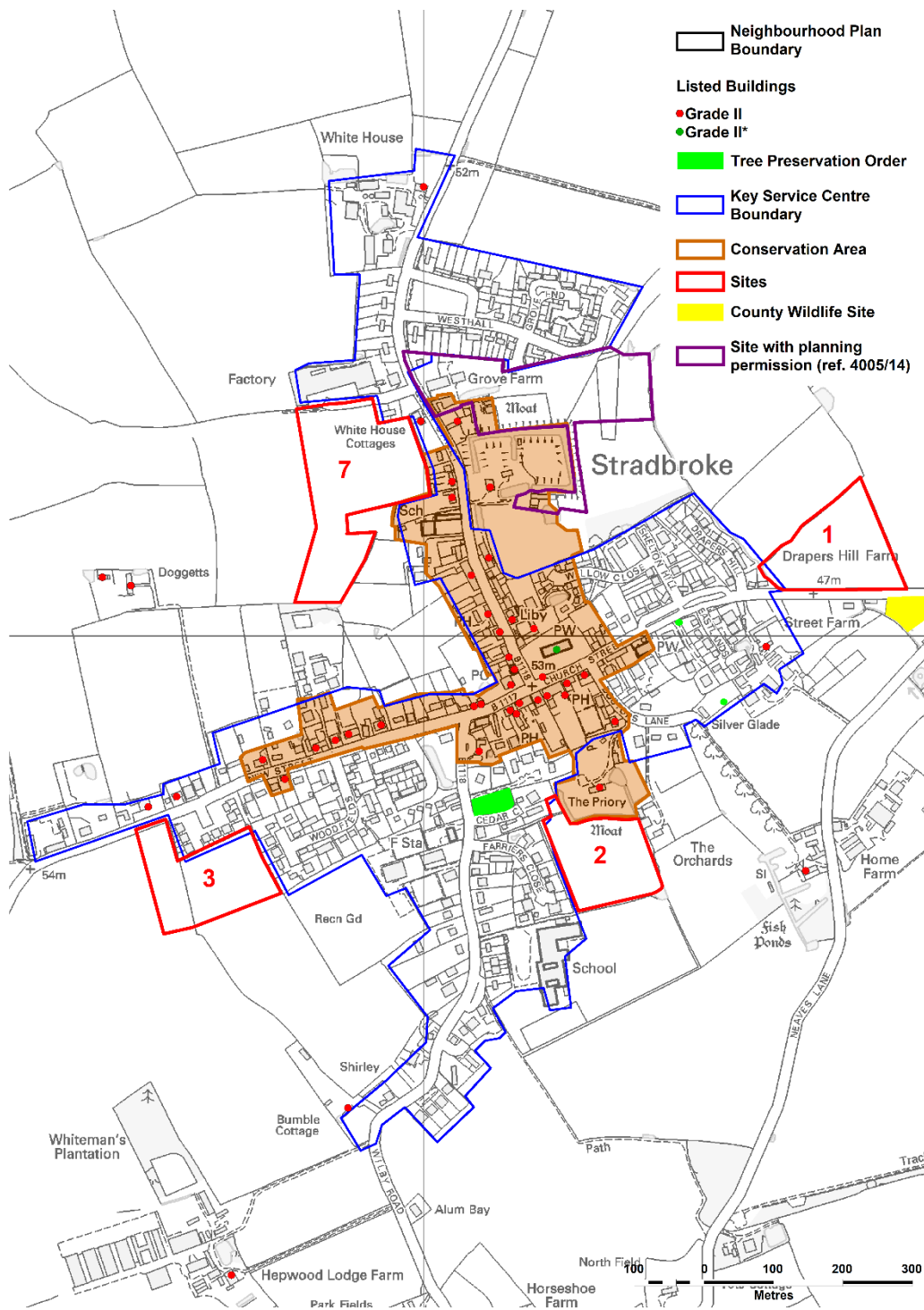
- Education: support the growing and changing needs of education for all ages and in particular, provide for the needs of the local primary and secondary schools.
- Health: expand the range of health care services available to local residents, as well as addressing the residential and care needs of the community as it ages.
- Sport and leisure: deliver facilities that promote leisure and recreation facilities for all ages and abilities.
- Community: increase community self-sufficiency and resilience by expanding the retail base and range of village community services.
- Housing: provide homes that meet the changing needs of Stradbroke in terms of affordability, size, type and tenure that will allow families and single people to settle, grow and continue to live in the village.
- Transport: to achieve improved transport to services at distance, especially educational services for post-16 students.

1.6 The legislative background set out below outlines the regulations that require this screening exercise. Section 4, provides a screening assessment of the likely significant

environmental effects of the Neighbourhood Plan and whether there is the need for an SEA.

- 1.7 The Neighbourhood Plan covers a 20-year period from 2017 to 2037 and seeks, amongst other things, to specify certain exact locations for development. The first complete draft of the Neighbourhood Plan proposes to allocate five sites, one of which already has the benefit of planning permission. The location of these sites is shown in Figure 1.2.

Figure 1.2: Location of site allocations in first draft of the Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan



2 LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

- 2.1 European Union Directive 2001/42/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans or programmes that would have a significant environmental effect. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) require that this is determined by a screening process, which should use a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations). The results of this process must be set out in an SEA Screening Statement, which must be publicly available.
- 2.2 In accordance with Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, the Stradbroke Parish Council (the qualifying body) has requested Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) as the responsible authority, to consider whether an environmental report on the emerging Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan is required due to significant environmental effects. In making this determination, MSDC should have regard to Schedule 1 of the Regulations.
- 2.3 The draft Neighbourhood Plan is shortly to commence the Pre-Submission Consultation (Regulation 14) stage. In line with the advice contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Planning Practice Guidance, the plan's potential scope should be assessed at an early stage against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Stradbroke Parish Council is therefore consulting the statutory consultees (Historic England/Natural England/Environment Agency) and MSDC on whether an SEA is required.
- 2.4 An SEA can be required in some limited situations where a sustainability appraisal is not needed; Neighbourhood Planning is one of these situations. Sustainability Appraisals (SAs) may incorporate the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, which implement the requirements of the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.
- 2.5 A Sustainability Appraisal ensures that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues and it is good practice to do one to understand how a plan is to deliver sustainable development. However, NPPF Planning Practice Guidance states that there is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to undertake a sustainability appraisal as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It is down to the qualifying body to demonstrate whether its plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This is the purpose of this SEA Screening Report.

3 CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 3(5) OF DIRECTIVE 2001/42/EC

3.1 Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below:

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:
 - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
 - the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:
 - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
 - the cumulative nature of the effects,
 - the trans-boundary nature of the effects,
 - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
 - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
 - intensive land-use,
 - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Source: Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

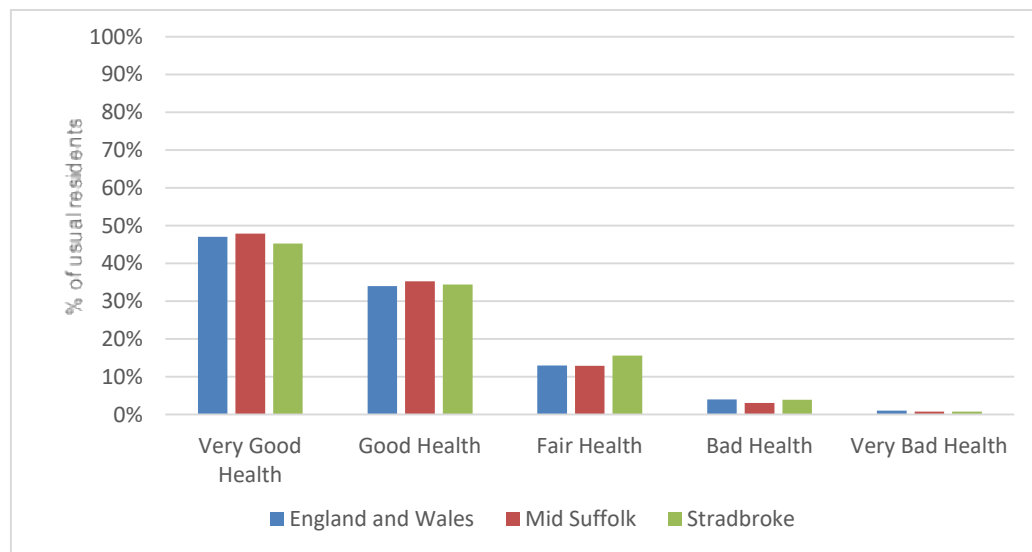
4 AREA CHARACTERISTICS

- 4.1 This section summarises the range of issues that must be considered as part of the SEA screening process.

Population and health

- 4.2 The 2011 Census recorded a population of 1,408 persons in the Neighbourhood Plan Area (the parish). Levels of deprivation are low and overall health is good, as shown in Figure 4.1.

Figure 4.1: General health levels, 2011

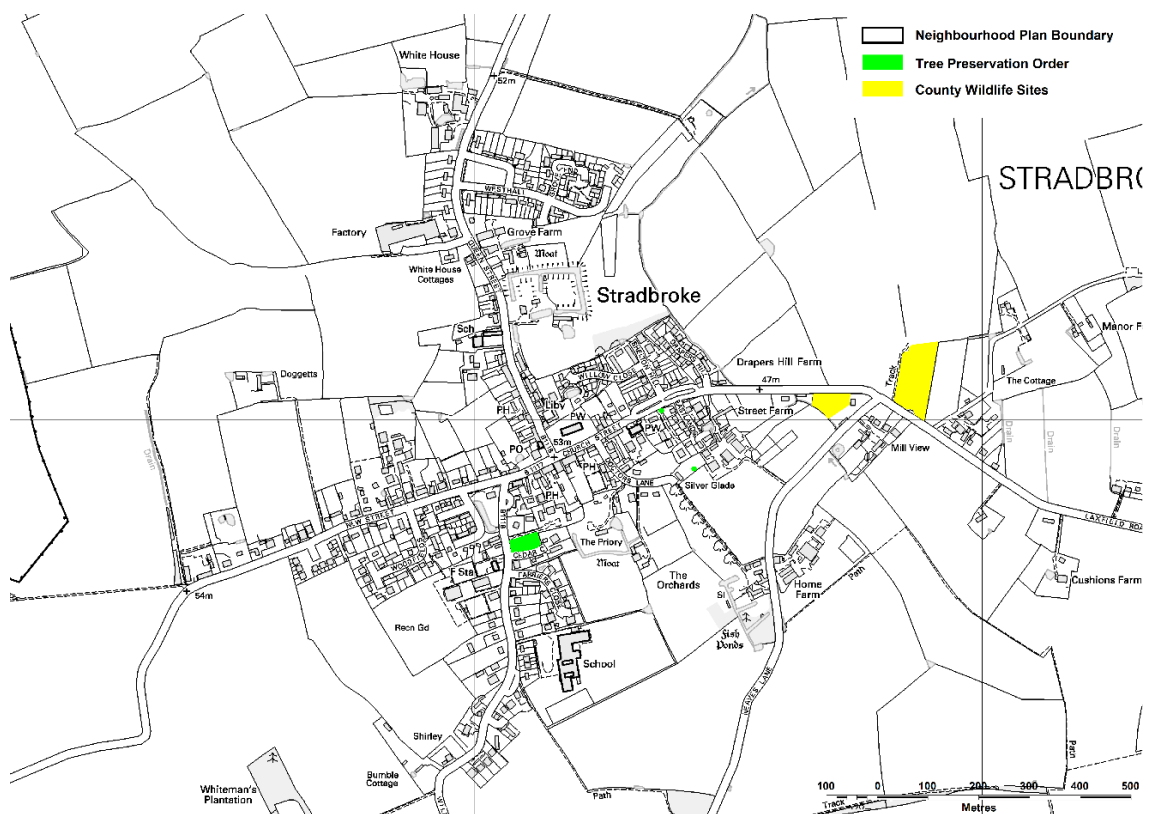
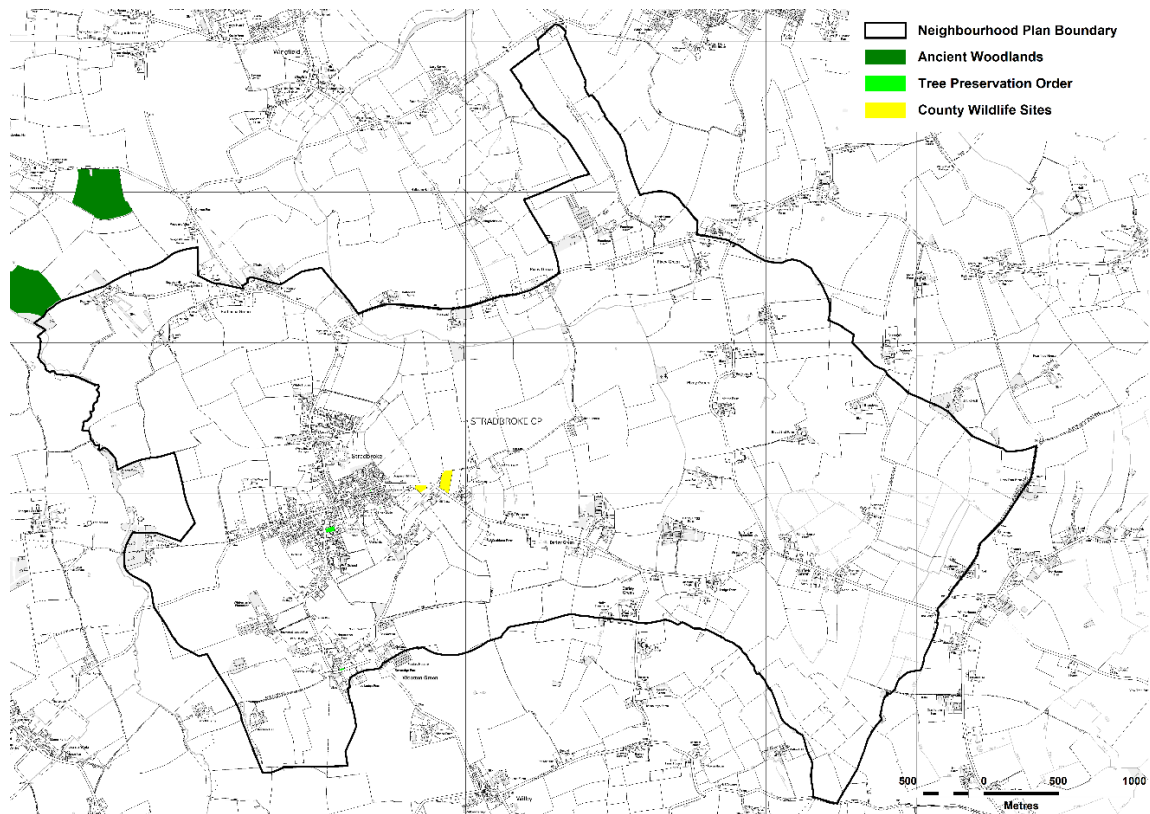


Source: 2011 Census

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

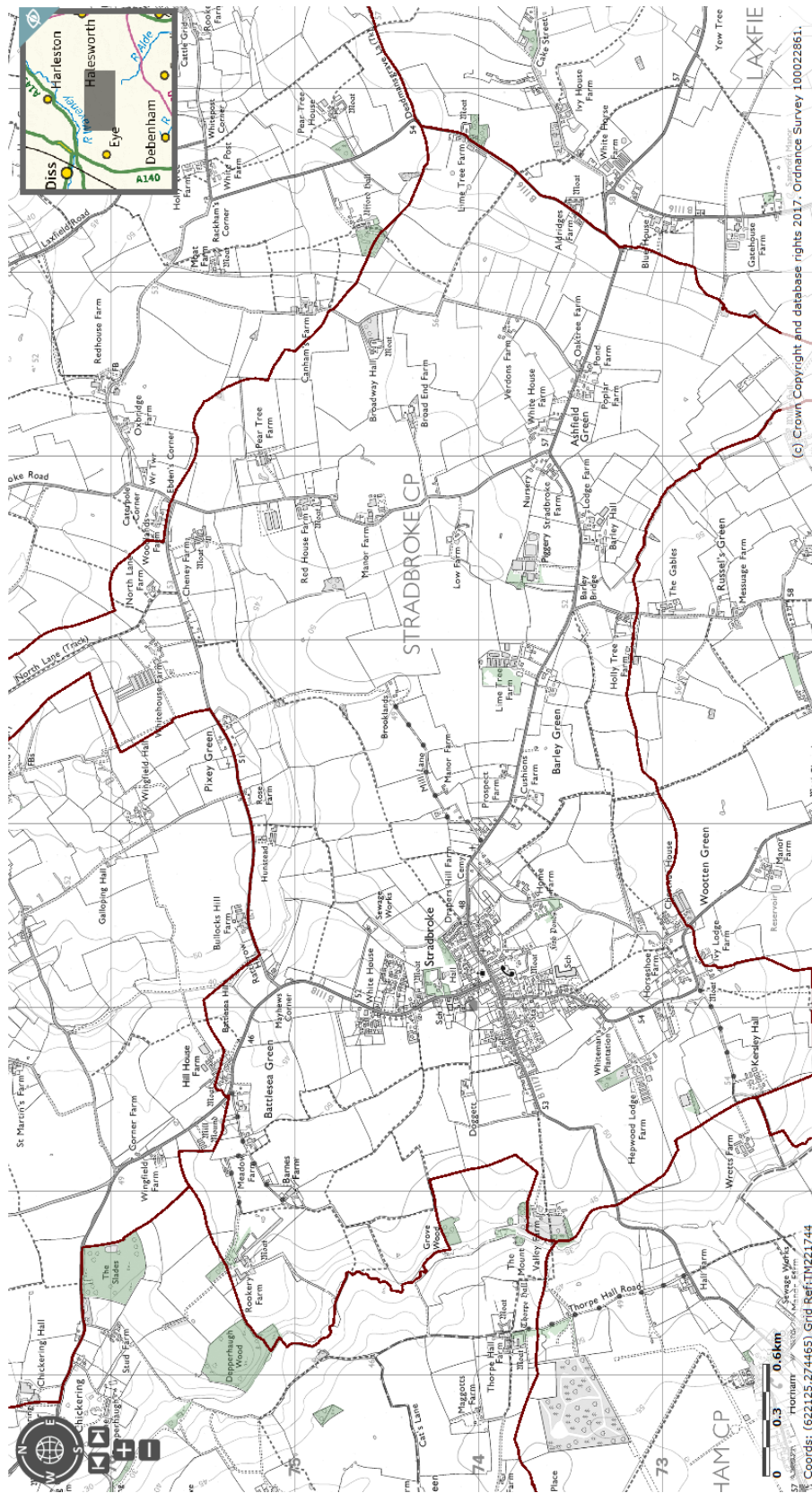
- 4.3 The only recognised biodiversity feature of significance in the Neighbourhood Plan Area are two County Wildlife Sites to the east of Stradbroke village. There is also a blanket Tree Preservation Area covering an area in the village.
- 4.4 Immediately adjacent to the north-western boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan Area are two ancient woodlands.
- 4.5 This is shown in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.2: Biodiversity features in and close to the Neighbourhood Area



Source: MAGIC, DEFRA

Figure 4.3: Priority habitats

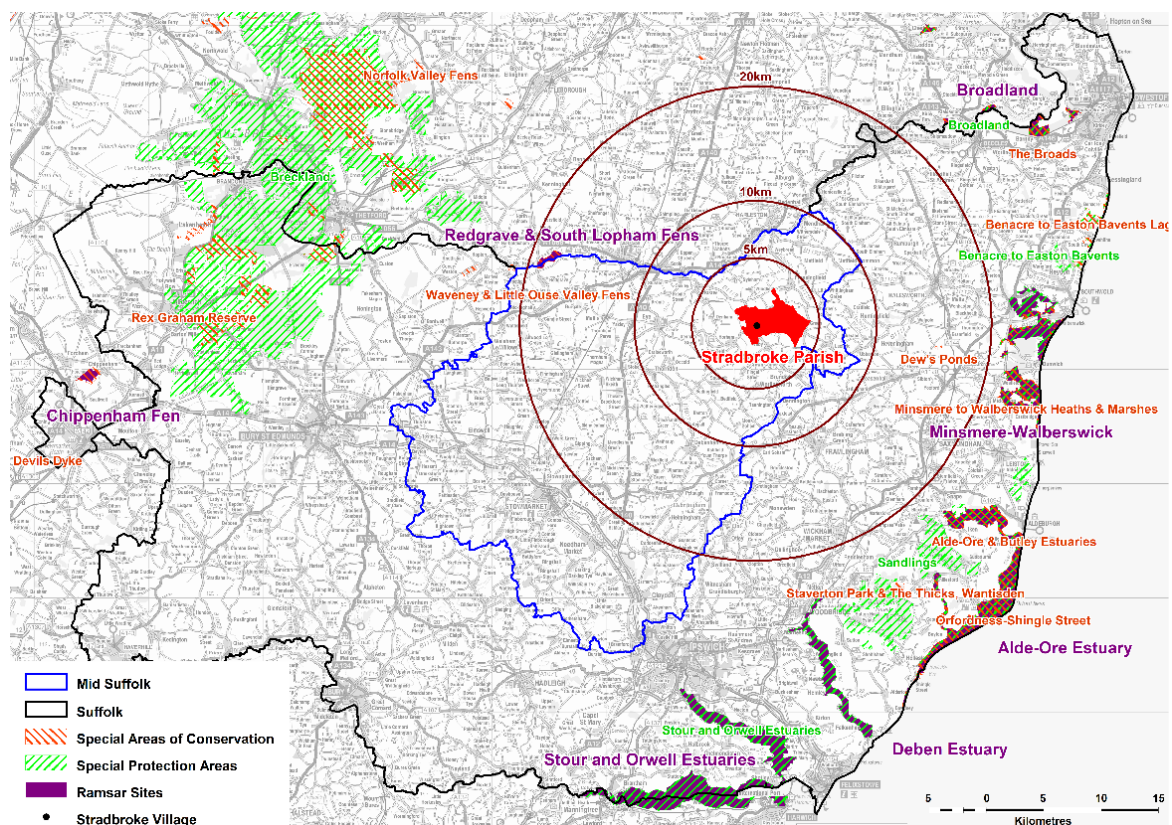


Source: MAGIC, DEFRA

Green = deciduous woodland

- 4.6 Figure 4.3 shows the priority habitats in and around the Neighbourhood Plan Area. These are deciduous woodlands and there are a number of small areas adjacent or very close to Stradbroke village. Elsewhere in the Neighbourhood Plan Area, and particularly adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan Area boundary, there are some larger areas of deciduous woodland.
- 4.7 Data from the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service identifies a number of protected species through the Neighbourhood Plan Area. This includes records of protected species at multiples points throughout Stradbroke village. Due to the sensitive nature of this information, it has not been possible to publish the mapping showing the locations of these protected species.
- 4.8 The Neighbourhood Plan Area is within the region of several Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and RAMSAR sites as seen in Figure 4.4. The Neighbourhood Plan Area is not within 10 kilometres of any of these sites.

Figure 4.4: Sites of European Importance

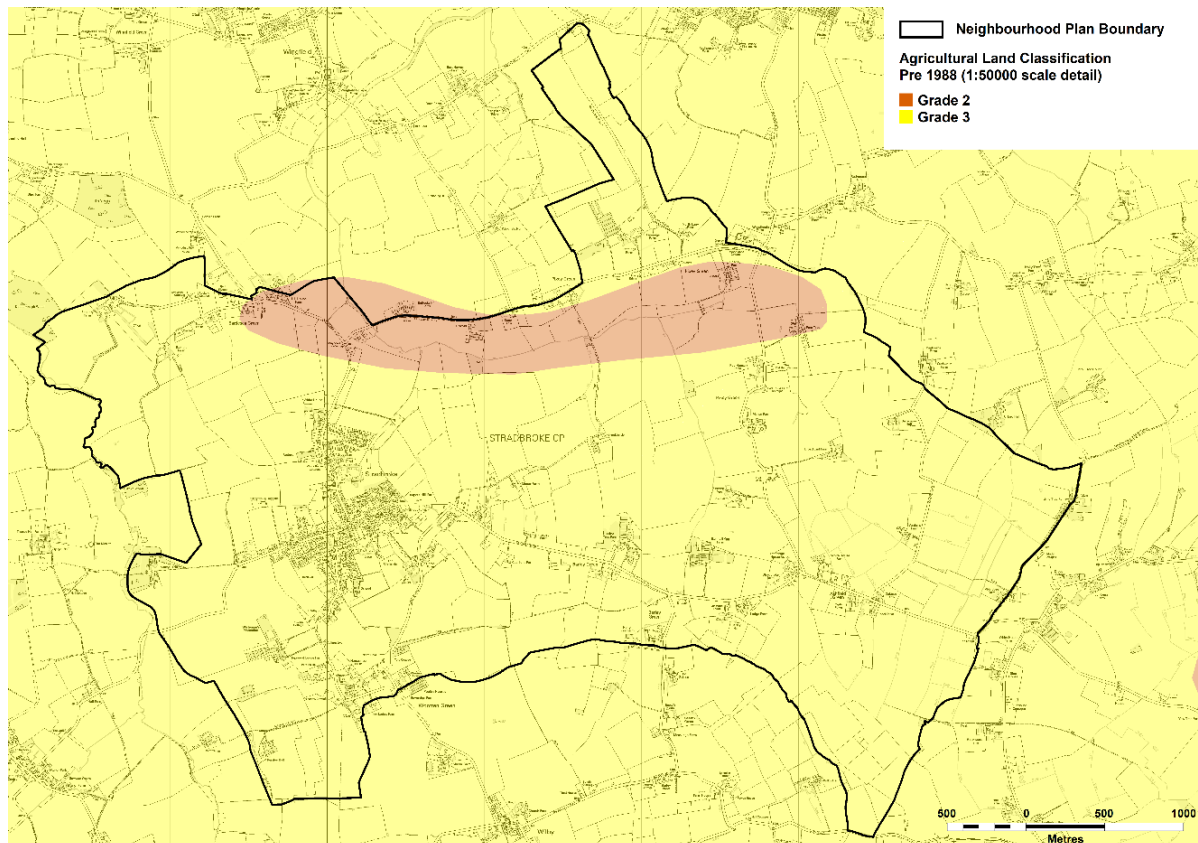


- 4.9 These matters are addressed in detail in the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report.

Soil

- 4.10 The Neighbourhood Area is located upon the High Suffolk Claylands¹. It is predominantly Grade 3 agricultural land (although it has not been possible to determine whether this is Grade 3a or Grade 3b), with a narrow belt of Grade 2 agricultural land in the north of the Neighbourhood Plan Area, away from the main settlement. This is shown in Figure 4.5.

Figure 4.5: Agricultural Land Classification



Source: MAGIC, DEFRA

Water

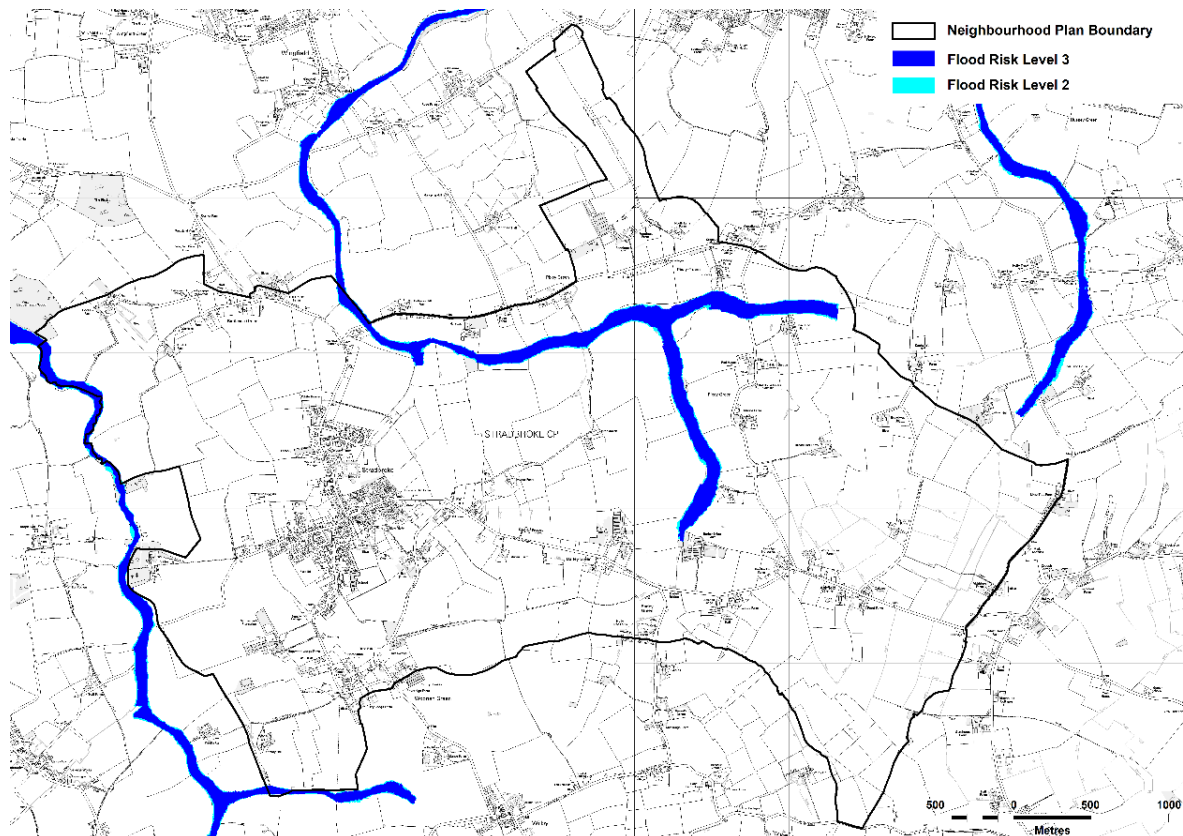
- 4.11 The Neighbourhood Plan Area is approximately six kilometres south of the River Waveney which forms much of the boundary between Norfolk and Suffolk. Several tributaries run through the Neighbourhood Plan Area, with two of these tributaries each lying approximately one mile from Stradbroke village on its north-east and west sides.
- 4.12 The areas immediately surrounding the tributaries to the west and north-east of the Neighbourhood Plan Area comprise flood risk zones 2 and 3 as seen in Figure 4.6. in

¹ <http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Conservation-Area-Appraisals/Stradbroke2011CAA.pdf>

addition, these areas are at risk of surface water flooding from both 1-in-30 year and 1-in-100 year events as seen in Figure 4.7.

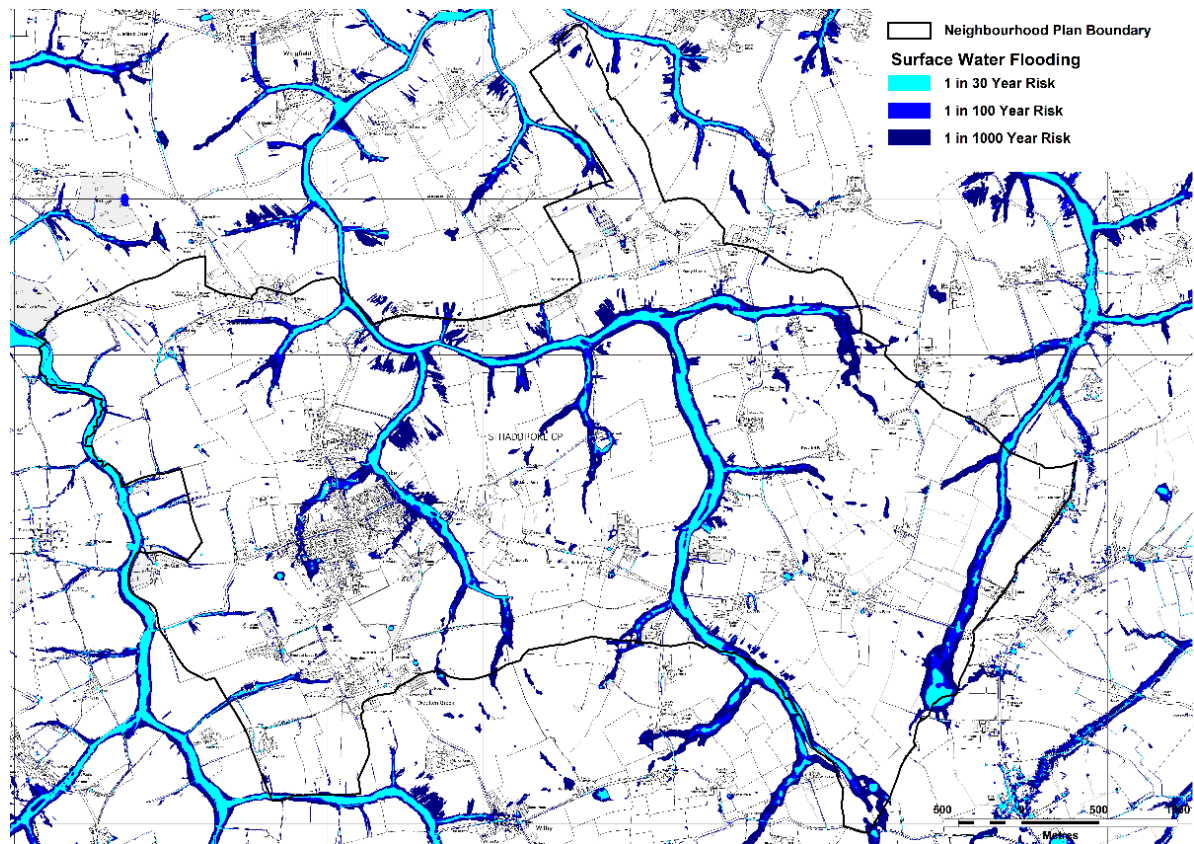
- 4.13 Surface water flooding has the potential to affect or be exacerbated by development, particularly where the tributary at the eastern and north-eastern areas of the main settlement runs adjacent to the site allocated on land south of Mill Lane (Policy STRAD18); the site with planning permission on land at Grove Farm (Policy STRAD19); and through the land allocated to the south of New Street (Policy STRAD15).

Figure 4.6: Fluvial food risk



Source: Environment Agency

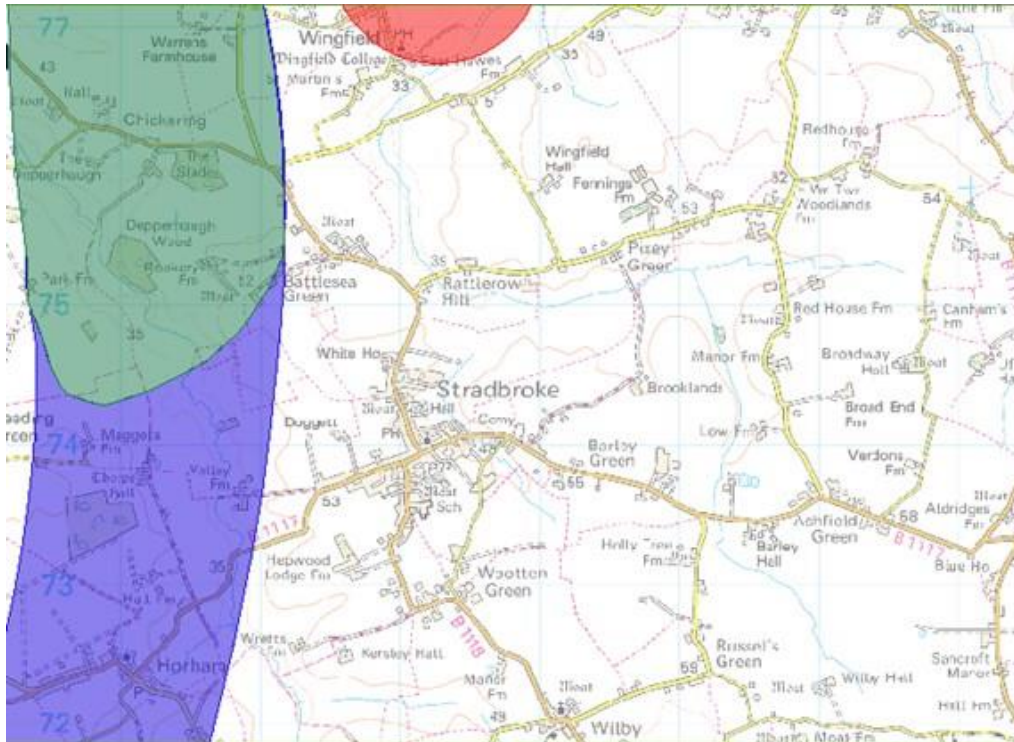
Figure 4.7: Surface water flood risk



Source: Environment Agency

- 4.14 As shown in Figure 4.8, a small part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area contains a Groundwater Source Protection Zone. These zones show the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area. The closer the activity, the greater the risk.

Figure 4.8: Groundwater source protection zone



Source: Environment Agency (red = inner zone, green = outer zone, purple = total catchment zone)

Air and climate

- 4.15 Mid Suffolk District Council does not currently require continuous monitoring of air quality and has no designated Air Quality Management Areas.
- 4.16 The only pollutant to be regularly monitored is nitrogen dioxide, which is monitored at 131 High Street, Needham Market as well as several points on the A14² which exceed the WHO guideline of 40 micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m³). These are well outside the Neighbourhood Plan Area therefore are unlikely to be significant.
- 4.17 As the global climate changes, an increasing prevalence of high-intensity weather events is expected to affect the environment of Suffolk, particularly as the county is in the driest area of the UK with 30% of its land below sea level. 2015 was both the hottest and wettest year on record with most of this rainfall recorded in December of that year³.

Material assets

- 4.18 There is no existing or historic landfill in or close to the area and no mining activity.

² Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) (<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Environment/2016-Annual-Status-Report.pdf>)

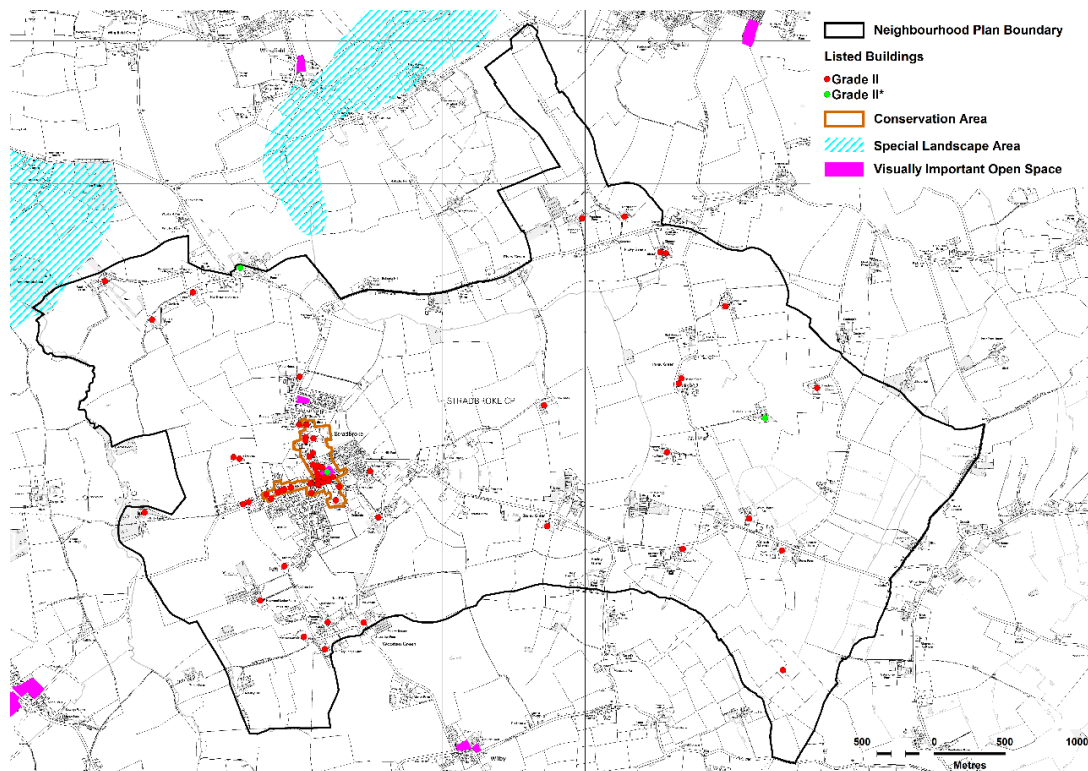
³ <http://www.greensuffolk.org/assets/Greenest-County/SCCP/Climate-Change/Suffolk-Climate-Action-Plan-3.pdf>

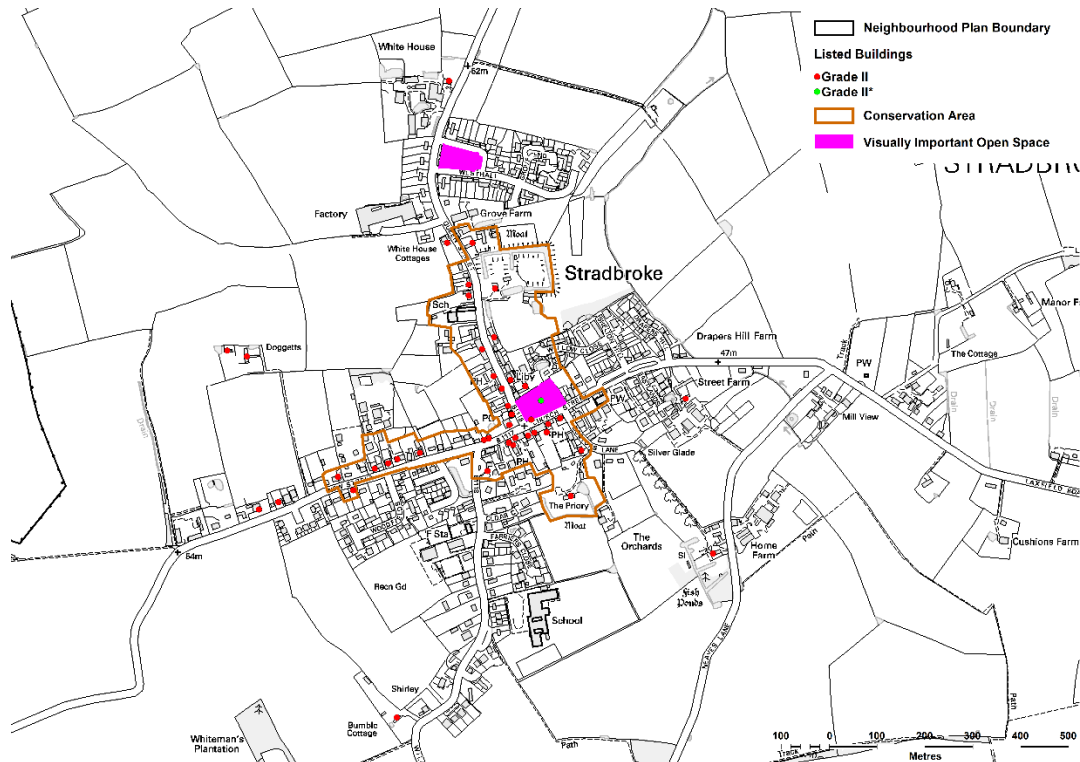
Cultural heritage

4.19 The Neighbourhood Plan Area has 69 listed buildings or structures, as shown in Figure 4.9. The split of these buildings is as follows:

- Grade I – 0
- Grade II – 66
- Grade II* – 3

Figure 4.9: Listed buildings

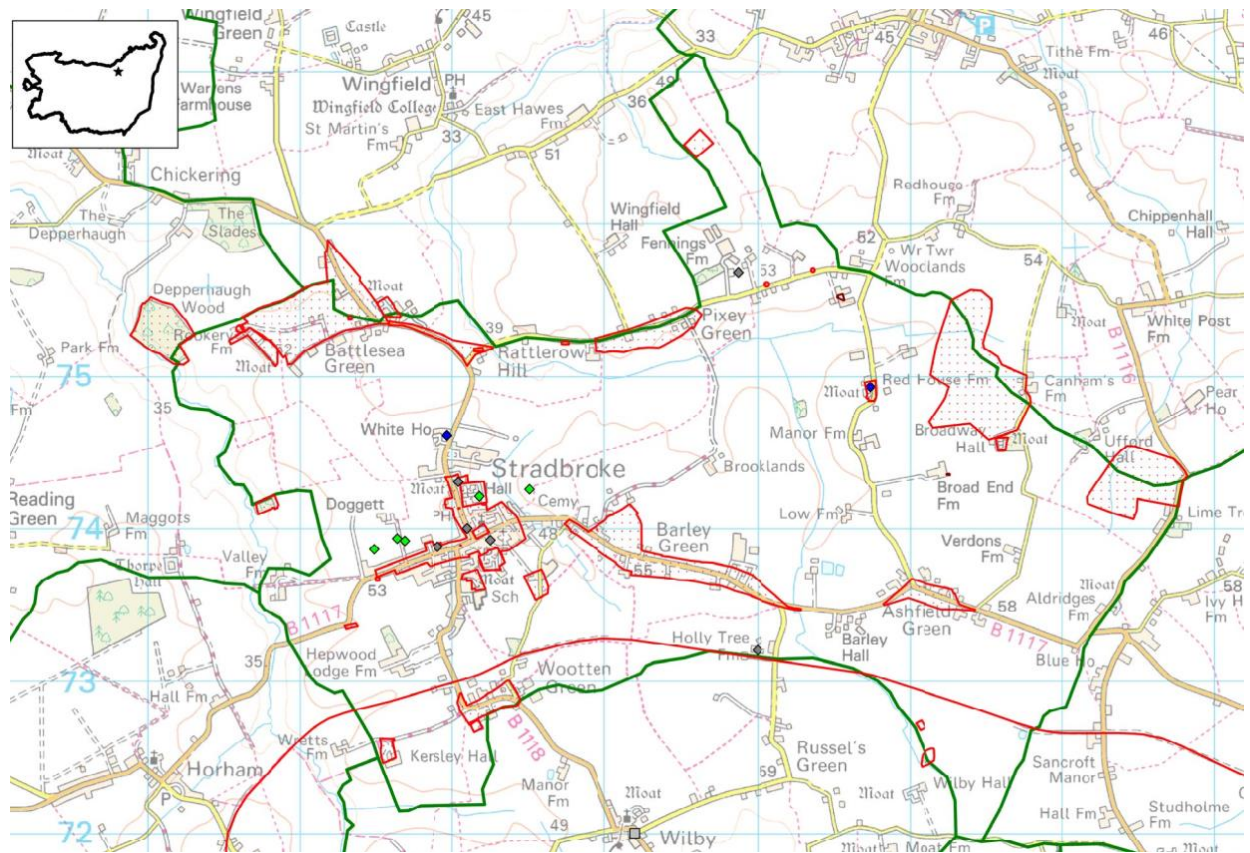




Source: Historic England

- 4.20 None of these buildings are on the register of Buildings at Risk. The three Grade II* structures are the Parish of Stradbroke Church on the corner of Queen Street and Church Street; Broad End Farmhouse on Stradbroke Road; and Hill House Farmhouse on the B1118 in Battlesea Green. A small number of listed buildings are near the Neighbourhood Plan Area boundary.
- 4.21 As shown in Figure 4.10, there are 53 monuments in the Neighbourhood Plan Area on the Historic Environmental Record (HER). Stradbroke village contains a large proportion of these monuments and they play an important role in the historic character of the village.
- 4.22 Several HER monuments are near Grove Farm, allocated itself in an outline record (SBK 049), Stradbroke Hall (SBK003), findspot of a 16th century jetton in the Hall (SBK 047); a medieval findspot near Drapers Hill Farm (MSF 18332); and a medieval moat (SBK004) and a monument (SBK 021- MSF 1966) near the site allocated at STRAD16.

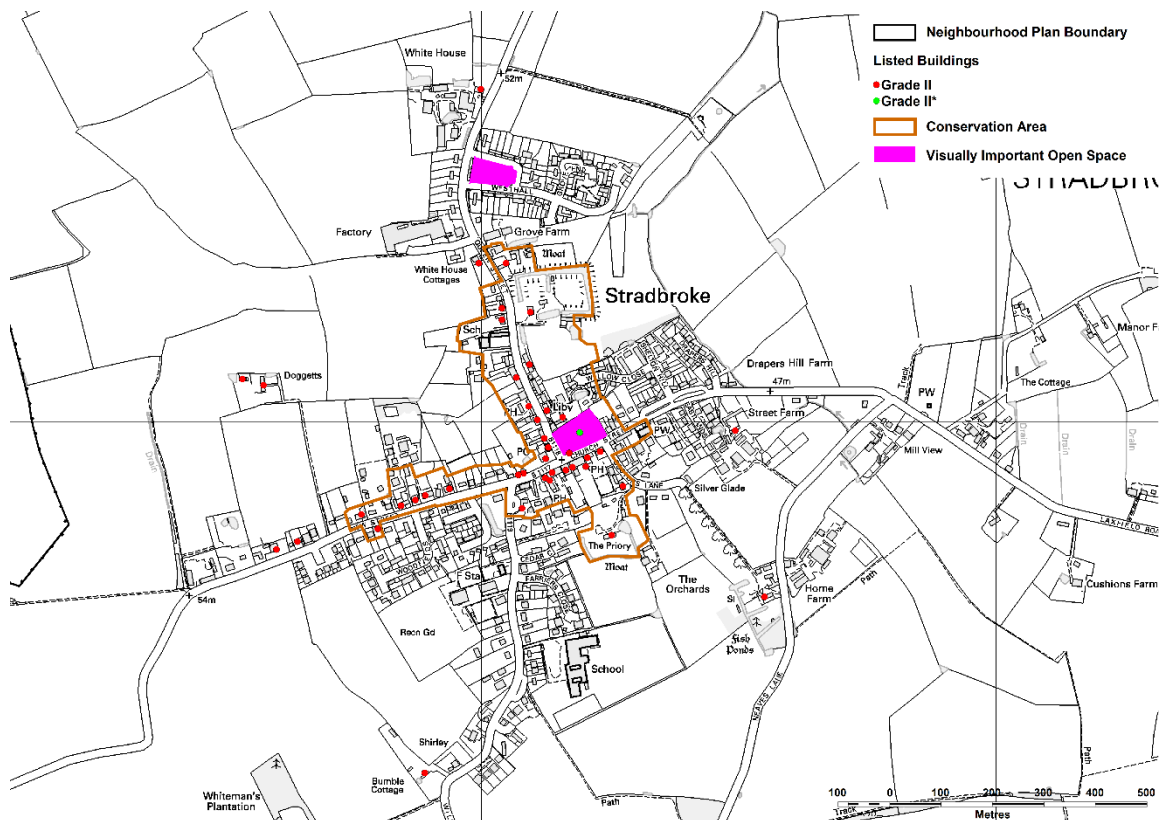
Figure 4.10: HER monuments



Source: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

- 4.23 The central 'crossroads' area of Stradbroke village is covered by a Conservation Area as shown in Figure 4.11 which seeks to protect its medieval character.

Figure 4.11: Conservation Area



Source: MAGIC, DEFRA

4.24 There are no archaeological records within the Neighbourhood Area.

Landscape

4.25 The Neighbourhood Area primarily comprises Stradbroke village and surrounding rural land in agricultural use. The Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council Landscape Guidance⁴ identifies that the Neighbourhood Plan Area is on Plateau Claylands. This features very heavy clay soil, is very gently undulating or flat and is dissected by small streams. The overall appearance is of wide open views with small clusters of hedges, trees and houses.

4.26 The principle aims for the Plateau Claylands are to:

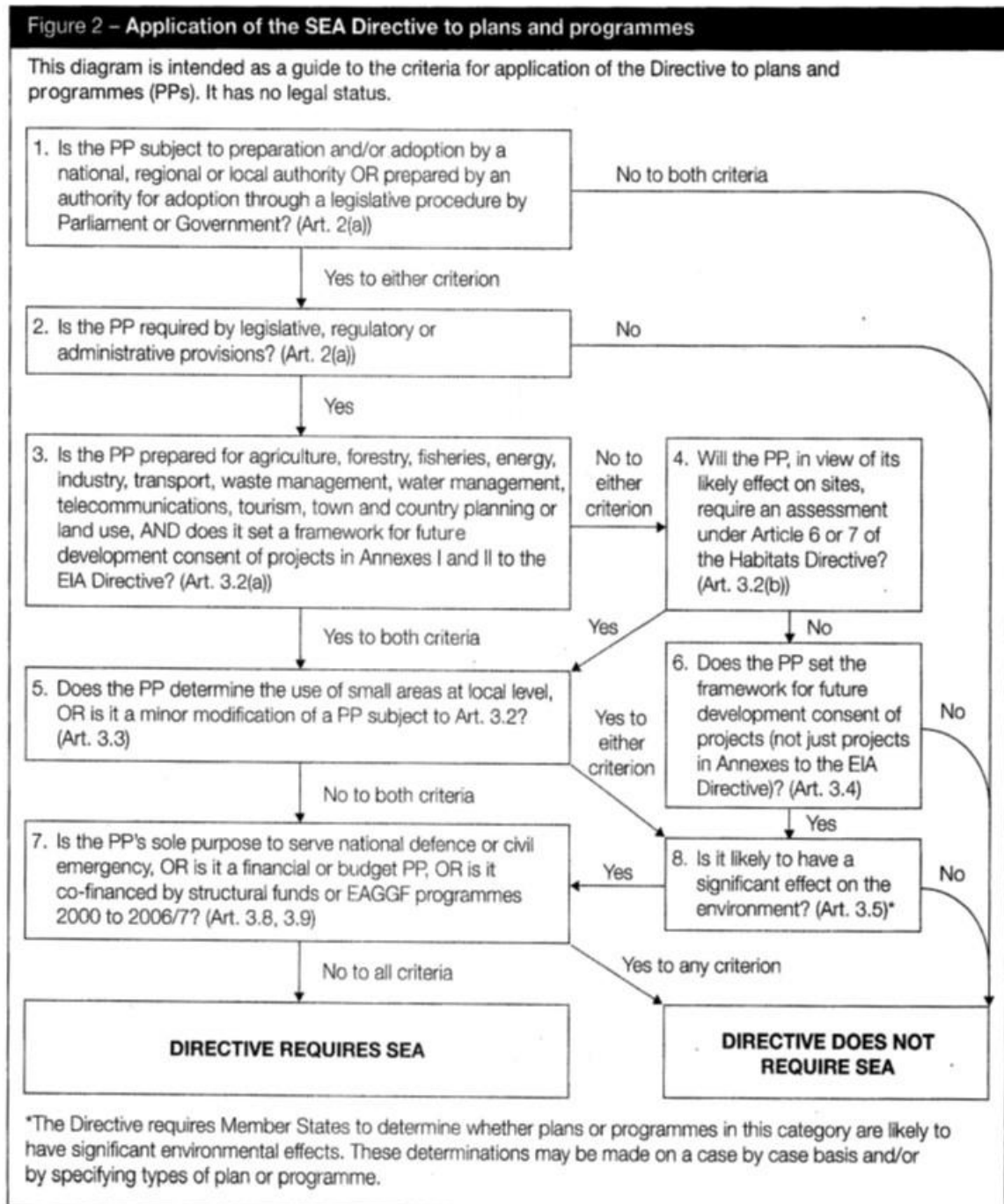
- maintain the distinctive settlement patterns, ensuring the sense of separation between settlements is maintained;
- retain the rural character of the small settlements and conservation areas by avoiding the use of standardised and intrusive urban materials and features;

⁴ Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils (2015) *Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council Landscape Guidance*

- restore, maintain and enhance green and woodland areas;
- design hedging for boundaries to reflect the local planting scheme to reduce visual impact on the distinctive character of the area;
- maintain the character and condition of the landscape by requiring any major developments to enter into a Section 106 Legal Agreement for on and off site landscaping including enhancing field boundaries with local hedging and tree species.

5 ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The diagram below illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required:



- 5.2 The table below assesses in broad terms whether the Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA. The questions below are drawn from the previous diagram which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.

Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The preparation and adoption of the Plan is allowed under The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017. The Plan is being prepared by Stradbroke Parish Council (as the "relevant body") and will be 'made' by Mid Suffolk District Council as the local authority subject to passing an independent examination and community referendum. The preparation of neighbourhood plans is subject to the following regulations: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and the Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012.
2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Y	Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan is not a requirement and is optional under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011, it will be 'made' and form part of the statutory development plan for Mid Suffolk district. It is therefore important that the screening process considers whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects and hence whether a full SEA is required under the Directive.
3. Is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Y	Neighbourhood plans can cover some of the topics identified in this list and they could set the framework for development of a scale that would fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive. However for neighbourhood plans, developments which fall under Annex I of the EIA Directive are 'excluded development' as set out in Section 61k of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act).
4. Will the Neighbourhood Plan, in view of its likely effect	N	A screening assessment for a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been prepared separately.

Stage	Y/N	Reason
on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))		This has been sent to MSDC and Natural England for consultation. The screening assessment is of the opinion that an HRA is not needed.
5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Y	The Plan allocates several sites within the Neighbourhood Area for a range of uses, including housing and community uses.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	The Neighbourhood Plan is to be used by MSDC in helping determine future planning applications. The Neighbourhood Plan however focuses on shaping how development comes forward.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	N	
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	Y	<p>The environmental designations have been identified further in the Stradbroke baseline information in Section 4 and in the Appendix, which includes maps, distances and vulnerability.</p> <p>As identified in the SEA toolkit for neighbourhood planning⁵, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations identify a threshold for when an EIA may be needed and the Toolkit recommends this as a starting point for SEA Screening. For 'urban development' projects, one of the thresholds is where development includes more than 150 dwellings.</p> <p>The draft Neighbourhood Plan proposes to allocate four development sites (policies STRAD15-18) and also allocates a site with planning permission for residential development (policy STRAD19). These allocations in total, propose to provide between 220 and 260</p>

⁵ Locality (2016) *Screening neighbourhood plans for strategic environmental assessment: A toolkit for neighbourhood planners*

Stage	Y/N	Reason
		<p>dwellings. Although spread across five sites, this is significantly in excess of the EIA Regulations threshold. The sites are also located very close to one another, therefore any cumulative impacts are likely to be relatively high.</p> <p>As the area characteristics presented in Section 4 show, some of the site allocations could have an impact on the following environmental assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STRAD15 is adjacent or very close to two County Wildlife Sites. • STRAD18 is close to a priority habitat. • All of the site allocations are close to areas where protected species have been sited. • All of the site allocations are identified as being in Grade 3 agricultural land therefore could be 'best and most versatile agricultural land' (Grade 3a). • A number of the site allocations have part of their area at risk from 1-in-30-year surface water flood risk. • STRAD16-18 are all close to listed buildings and are adjacent to the Conservation Area and so development at the scale proposed could affect their setting. • STRAD 16 is near to a Historic Environmental Record (HER) monument of archaeological value. <p>In addition, the following policies could also have an impact on the environment although it is doubtful as to whether these will be significant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STRAD2 (Design principles) expects development to demonstrate good place-making principles in its design and layout. • STRAD10 (Local green spaces) identifies existing green spaces that are special to the community and protects them from development. • STRAD11 (Design and heritage) encourages the use of high quality materials and the retention of traditional heritage features. • STRAD12 (Light pollution) seeks to minimise the impact of light pollution from new

Stage	Y/N	Reason
		<p>development.</p> <p>In light of the site allocations proposed in the draft Neighbourhood Plan and their potential impact on a number of environmental assets, it is considered that the Plan could have a significant impact on the environment.</p>

Assessment of likely significant effects

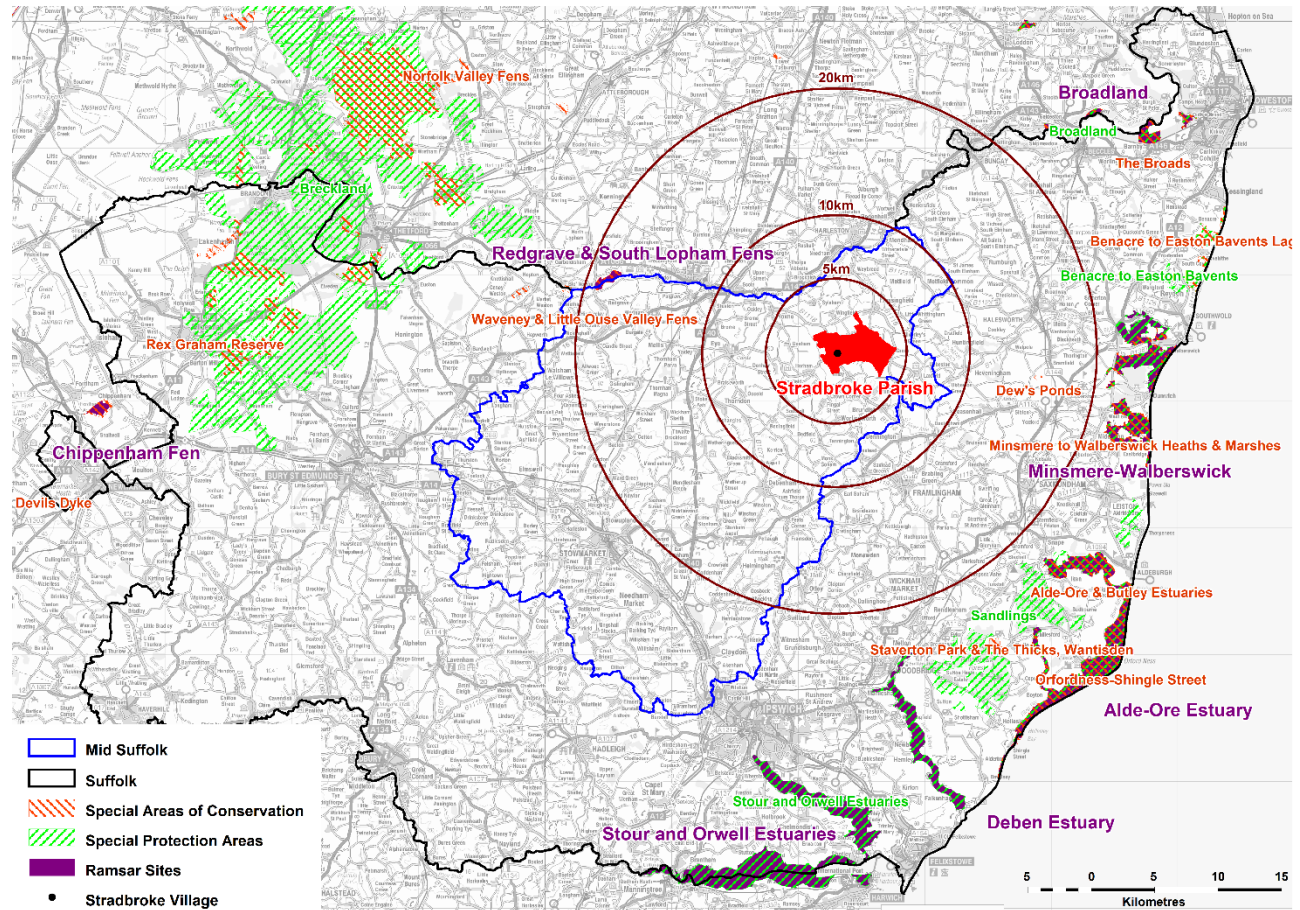
- 5.3 Under criterion 8 of the assessment in the table above, it was concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan may have a significant effect on the environment depending on the proposals within it and that a case by case assessment was required. The criteria for undertaking such an assessment are drawn from Article 3.5 of the SEA Directive and set out in Section 3 of this report.

6 SEA SCREENING OPINION

- 6.1 As a result of the assessment in section 5, it is considered that there could be significant environmental effects arising either individually or cumulatively from the draft Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan policies. The reasons for reaching this opinion include:
- The location of proposed site allocations could have an impact on various environmental matters including:
 - County Wildlife Sites
 - Priority habitats
 - Protected species
 - Best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 3a)
 - Surface water flooding
 - Heritage assets, including the Conservation Area, listed buildings and HER designations.
 - Certain policies in the draft Neighbourhood Plan addressing design (Policies STRAD2 and STRAD11) and landscaping (Policy STRAD2) could have an impact on the Plateau Clayland landscape.
- 6.2 Any development proposal that would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, will be subject to assessment at the project application stage.
- 6.3 As such, it is considered under Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, that the Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plan does require an SEA to be undertaken because it could have significant environmental effects. The outcome of this screening report will be subject to review by Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency as well as Mid Suffolk District Council. The screening report and subsequent screening opinion may also need to be reviewed if significant changes are made to the Neighbourhood Plan following this review.

APPENDIX

STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS



Designation relates to, or having the nature of, a statute (such as the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, or the National Parks and Countryside Act, 1949). The NPPF states for plan-making that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless: specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted. For example, those policies relating to sites protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives (see paragraph 119) and/or designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest; land designated as Green Belt, Local Green Space, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Heritage Coast or within a National Park (or the Broads Authority); designated heritage assets; and locations at risk of flooding or coastal erosion. See [circular 05/2006](#).

Ramsar Sites

A Ramsar site is the land listed as a Wetland of International Importance under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention) 1973. The Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar is located approximately 35km to the south of Stradbroke and includes extensive mud-flats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches. The Ramsar supports important numbers of breeding Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, while in winter they hold major concentrations of water birds, especially geese, ducks and waders. The geese feed and the waders roost in agricultural land beyond the designated area. The vulnerability of the Ramsar is affected by natural coastal processes exacerbated by fixed sea defences, port development and maintenance dredging.

The Minsmere-Walberswick Ramsar is located approximately 25km to the east of Stradbroke. It contains a complex mosaic of habitats, notably, areas of marsh with dykes, extensive reedbeds, mudflats, lagoons, shingle and driftline, woodland and areas of lowland heath. The site supports the largest continuous stand of reed in England and Wales and demonstrates the nationally rare transition in grazing marsh ditch plants from brackish to fresh water. The combination of habitats create an exceptional area of scientific interest supporting nationally scarce plants, British Red Data Book invertebrates and nationally important numbers of breeding and wintering birds.

The Deben Estuary Ramsar is located approximately 40km south-east of Stradbroke. This estuary is relatively narrow and sheltered. It has limited amounts of freshwater input and the intertidal areas are constrained by sea-walls. The site supports nationally and internationally important flora and fauna. This includes a population of the mollusc *Vertigo angustior*. Martlesham Creek is one of only about fourteen sites in Britain where this species survives.

The Alde-Ore Estuary Ramsar is located approximately 25km south-east of Stradbroke. It comprises the estuary complex of the rivers Alde, Butley and Ore, including Havergate Island and Orfordness. There are a variety of habitats including, intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, vegetated shingle (including the second-largest and best-preserved area in Britain at Orfordness), saline lagoons and grazing marsh. The Orfordness/Shingle Street landform is unique within Britain in combining a shingle spit with a cusped foreland. The site supports nationally-scarce plants, British Red Data Book invertebrates, and notable assemblages of breeding and wintering wetland birds.

Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar is located approximately 18km west of Stradbroke. It is an extensive example of lowland base-rich valley, remarkable for its lack

of fragmentation. The diversity of the site is due to the lateral and longitudinal zonation of the vegetation types characteristic of valley mires, such as dry birch woodland, scrub and carr, floristically-rich fen grassland, mixed fen, wet heath and areas of reed and saw sedge. The site supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the fen raft spider *Dolomedes plantarius*.

Special Protection Areas

A Special Protection Area (SPA) is the land classified under Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds.

The Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA is located 40km to the south of Stradbroke. It contains an internationally important assemblage of birds. Qualifying species include; Avocet (breeding), Northern pintail *Anas acuta* (wintering), Dark-bellied Brent goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* (wintering), Red knot *Calidris canutus* (wintering), Black-tailed godwit (Icelandic) *Limosa limosa islandica* (wintering), Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (wintering), and Redshank *Tringa totanus* (wintering and passage). The vulnerability of the SPA is affected by pressure for increased port development and marine recreation in this area including tourism.

The Sandlings SPA is located 25km to the south-east of Stradbroke. Qualifying species include; Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* and Woodlark *Lullula arborea*.

The Alde-Ore Estuary SPA is located 25km to the south-east of Stradbroke. Qualifying species include; Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* and Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*.

The Minsmere-Walberswick SPA is located 25km to the east of Stradbroke. Qualifying species include; Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* and Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*.

The Benacre to Easton Bavents SPA is located 30km to the east of Stradbroke. Qualifying species include; Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* and Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*.

The Breckland SPA is located 40km to the west of Stradbroke. Qualifying species include; Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedipnemos* and Woodlark *Lullula arborea*.

Special Areas of Conservation

A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is the land designated under Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora.

The Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries is located approximately 25km to the south-east of Stradbroke and is an estuary made out of three rivers. It is the only bar-built estuary in the UK with a shingle bar. The estuary contains large areas of shallow water and is diverse and species-rich containing many lengths of vegetated or shingle habitat, saltmarsh, grassland and reed bed.

The Orfordness-Shingle Street SAC is located approximately 25km to the south-east of Stradbroke. Orfordness is an extensive shingle structure consisting of a foreland, a 15 km-long spit and a series of recurves running from north to south. It supports some of the largest and most natural sequences in the UK of shingle vegetation affected by salt spray. The southern end has a particularly fine series of undisturbed ridges, with zonation of communities determined by the ridge pattern. Pioneer communities with sea pea *Lathyrus japonicus* and false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland occur. Locally these are nutrient-enriched by the presence of a gull colony; elsewhere they support rich lichen communities. Drift-line vegetation occurs on the sheltered, western side of the spit, at the transition from shingle to saltmarsh, as well as on the exposed eastern coast. The drift-line community is widespread and comprises sea beet *Beta vulgaris*, *maritima* and orache *Atriplex*. The site also includes a series of percolation lagoons that have developed in the shingle bank adjacent to the shore at the mouth of the Ore estuary. The salinity of the lagoons is maintained by percolation through the shingle, although at high tides sea water can overtop the shingle bank. The fauna of these lagoons includes typical lagoon species, such as the cockle *Cerastoderma glaucum*, the ostracod *Cyprideis torosa* and the gastropods *Littorina saxatilis tenebrosa* and *Hydrobia ventrosa*. The nationally rare starlet sea anemone *Nematostella vectensis* is also found at the site.

The Staverton Park & The Thicks SAC is located approximately 25km to the south-east of Stradbroke. The site is representative of old oak *Quercus* spp. woods, and its ancient oaks have rich invertebrate and epiphytic lichen assemblages. Despite being in the most 'continental' part of southern Britain, the epiphytic lichen flora of this site includes rare and Atlantic species, such as *Haemotomma elatinum*, *Lecidea cinnabarina*, *Thelotrema lepadinum*, *Graphis elegans* and *Stenocybe septata*. Part of the site includes an area of old holly *Ilex aquifolium* trees that are probably the largest in Britain. The site has a very well-documented history and good conservation of woodland structure and function.

The Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SAC is located approximately 25km to the east of Stradbroke. Lowland dry heaths occupy an extensive area of this site on the east coast of England, which is at the extreme easterly range of heath development in the UK. The heathland is predominantly heather – western gorse (*Calluna vulgaris* – *Ulex gallii*) heath, usually more characteristic of western parts of the UK. This type is dominated by heather, western gorse and bell heather *Erica cinerea*. Shingle beach forms the coastline at Walberswick and Minsmere. It supports a variety of scarce shingle plants including sea pea *Lathyrus japonicus*, sea campion *Silene maritima* and small populations of sea kale *Crambe maritima*, grey hair-grass *Corynephorus canescens* and yellow horned-poppy *Glaucium flavum*. A well-developed beach strandline of mixed sand and shingle supports annual vegetation. Species include those typical of sandy shores, such as sea sandwort *Honckenya peploides* and shingle plants such as sea beet *Beta vulgaris maritima*.

The Dews Pond SAC is located approximately 15km east of Stradbroke. It comprises a series of 12 ponds set in an area of formerly predominantly arable land. The ponds range from old field ponds created for agricultural purposes to some constructed in recent years specifically for wildlife. Some of the land has been converted from arable to grassland, with a variety of grassland types present. Other habitats include hedges and ditches. Great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* have been found in the majority of ponds on the site.

The Benacre to Easton Bavents Lagoons SAC is located approximately 30km to the east of Stradbroke. It is a series of percolation lagoons on the east coast of England. The lagoons (the Denes, Benacre Broad, Covehithe Broad and Easton Broad) have formed behind shingle barriers and are a feature of a geomorphologically dynamic system. Sea water enters the lagoons by percolation through the barriers, or by overtopping them during storms and high spring tides. The lagoons show a wide range of salinities, from nearly fully saline in South Pool, the Denes, to extremely low salinity at Easton Broad. This range of salinity has resulted in a series of lagoonal vegetation types, including beds of narrow-leaved eelgrass *Zostera angustifolia* in fully saline or hypersaline conditions, beds of spiral tasselweed *Ruppia cirrhosa* in brackish water, and dense beds of common reed *Phragmites australis* in freshwater. The site supports a number of specialist lagoonal species.

The Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC is located approximately 18km to the west of Stradbroke. This site occurs in the East Anglian centre of distribution of calcareous fens and contains very extensive great fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus* beds, including managed examples, as well as stands in contact zones between small sedge mire and species-poor *Cladium* beds. The habitat type here occurs in a spring-fed valley fen.

Purple moor-grass – meadow thistle (*Molinia caerulea* – *Cirsium dissectum*) fen-meadows are associated with the spring-fed valley fen systems. The *Molinia* meadows occur in conjunction with black bog-rush – blunt-flowered rush (*Schoenus nigricans* – *Juncus subnodulosus*) mire and calcareous fens with great fen-sedge. Where the fen-meadow is grazed it is more species-rich, with frequent southern marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*. A population of Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* occurs in a valley fen at Weston Fen.

The Breckland SAC is located 40km to the west of Stradbroke. This is a gently undulating plateau underlain by bedrock of Cretaceous Chalk, covered by thin deposits of sand and flint. The conditions during the last glaciation have given rise to the patterned ground features and ice depressions (pingos) that we see today and that are of high geological and biological importance. The continental climate, with low rainfall and free-draining soils, has led to the development of dry heath and grassland communities. Relatively lush river valleys provide a gentle contrast to the drier harsher surroundings. Occasional woods with alder *Alnus glutinosa* and willow *Salix* sp. the most dominant trees occur beside rivers and streams in the floodplains. These woods rely on high water levels and sometimes surface flooding as both river flooding or spring flows can be very important. The dry heaths of Breckland are of the *Calluna vulgaris* – *Festuca ovina* (heather – sheep's-fescue) community. The sand sedge-dominated *Carex arenaria* sub-community is typical of areas of blown sand – a very unusual feature of this location. The highly variable soils of Breckland, with underlying chalk being largely covered with wind-blown sands, have resulted in mosaics of heather-dominated heathland, acidic grassland and calcareous grassland that are unlike those of any other site. In many places there is a linear or patterned distribution of heath and grassland, arising from fossilised soil patterns that formed under peri-glacial conditions. Breckland is the most extensive surviving area of the rare *Festuca ovina* – *Hieracium pilosella* – *Thymus praecox* (sheep's-fescue – mouse-ear-hawkweed – wild thyme) grassland type. The grassland is rich in rare species typical of dry, winter-cold, continental areas, and approaches the features of grassland types in central Europe more than almost any other semi-natural dry grassland found in the UK. Wangford Warren and adjoining parts of RAF Lakenheath have one of the best-preserved systems of active inland sand dunes in the UK. The habitat type, which is in part characterised by the nationally rare grey hair-grass *Corynephorus canescens* occurring here at its only inland station, is associated with open conditions with active sand movement. The site shows the colonisation sequence from open sand to acidic grass-heath. The Breckland meres are examples of hollows within glacial outwash deposits and are fed by water from the underlying chalk aquifer. Natural fluctuations in groundwater tables mean that these lakes occasionally dry out. The flora is dominated by stonewort – pondweed *Characeae* – *Potamogetonaceae* associations. A

number of the water bodies within the site support populations of amphibians, including great crested newts *Triturus cristatus*.

The Rex Graham Reserve SPA is located approximately 45km to the west of Stradbroke. It is a disused chalk pit and surrounding land most of which is developing dry calcareous grassland characterised by false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*. The site supports the largest population of military orchid *Orchis militaris* in the UK. The pit also contains a large number of bushes of mezereon *Daphne mezereon* which is also rare as a wild plant. Other species found on the site include twayblade *Listera ovata*, adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, ploughman's spikenard *Inula conyza* and mullein *Verbascum thapsus*.

Environmental Stewardship Schemes

Environmental Stewardship Schemes replaced Environmentally Sensitive Areas which were introduced in 1987 to offer incentives to encourage farmers to adopt agricultural practices which would safeguard and enhance parts of the country of particularly high landscape, wildlife or historic value. Land within the Stradbroke NP area is designated as an ESA. The ESA designation does not however have any planning status and cannot be used for decision-making purposes.

Designated Heritage Assets

Stradbroke contains a number of heritage assets. The National Heritage List for England ([the List](#)) records 69 entries in the parish, including three Grade 2* listed buildings.

In 1973 the historic village core was designated as a Conservation Area.

Below are the relevant HER records.

SMR Number SBK 049 - MSF3548 **Site Name** OUTLINE RECORD: Grove Farm (DUR) HS

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
SBK 049 - MSF35489	OUTLINE RECORD: Grove Farm (DUR) HS	Allocated Number Period

Location

National Grid Reference

TM 2304 7430 (point) TM27SW Point

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish STRADBROKE, MID SUFFOLK, SUFFOLK

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Parish Code - SBK 049 Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Monument Types and Dates

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Description and Sources

Description - None recorded

Sources - None recorded

Land Use

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

SMR Number SBK 003 - MSF3072 **Site Name** Stradbroke Hall

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
SBK 003 - MSF3072	Stradbroke Hall	Monument
Moat.		Period Med

Location

National Grid Reference

Centred TM 231 742 (173m by 165m) TM27SW Area

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish STRADBROKE, MID SUFFOLK, SUFFOLK

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations

SHINE (Validated) Largely complete double rectangular moated site at Stradbroke Hall Active DSF16726

Other Statuses and Cross-References

SHINE Candidate (Yes) Active
Sites & Monuments Record - 3072 Active
Parish Code - SBK 003 Active

Ratings and Scorings

Confidentiality Not restricted 29/12/2008

Monument Types and Dates

MOAT (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)

Evidence EARTHWORK

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities

ESF14051 Survey by OS (Event - Survey. Ref: OS)

Description and Sources

Description

Moat. Two large rectangular adjoining enclosures, part occupied. 200 yards N of church.

Sources - None recorded

Land Use

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations

West, Stanley - Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Compiler

SMR Number SBK 047 - MSF3425 **Site Name** Findspot of a 16th Century jetton

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
SBK 047 - MSF34258	Findspot of a 16th Century jetton	Find Spot
	Findspot of a 16th Century George Schultes jetton dated 1552. Found between the beams of 15th and 16th centuries in the Hall(N.wall).	Period

Location

National Grid Reference

TM 2318 7421 (point) TM27SW Point

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish STRADBROKE, MID SUFFOLK, SUFFOLK

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statutes and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statutes and Cross-References

Parish Code - SBK 047 Active

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Monument Types and Dates

FINDSPOT (16th century - 1500 AD to 1599 AD)

Associated Finds

FSF39392 JETTON (1) (16th century - 1500 AD to 1599 AD)

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Description and Sources

Description

1993: Findspot of a 16th Century George Schultes jetton dated 1552. Found between the beams of 15th and 16th centuries in the Hall(N.wall).
Obv. 10RG SCHULTES NO 1552.
Rev. 10RG SCHULTES 1552.
Nuremburg "ship penny" type.

Sources - None recorded

Land Use

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded

SMR Number SBK Misc - MSF183 **Site Name** 1985: Metal detector find of Edward I 1d - obverse:

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
SBK Misc - MSF18332	1985: Metal detector find of Edward I 1d - obverse: EDWA`R` ANGEL. (Med)	Find Spot
1985: Metal detector find of Edward I 1d - obverse: EDWA`R` ANGEL.		Period Med

Location

National Grid Reference

TM 2350 7425 (point) TM27SW Point

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish STRADBROKE, MID SUFFOLK, SUFFOLK

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

Sites & Monuments Record - 18332	Active
SHINE Candidate (Unlikely)	Active
Parish Code - SBK Misc	Active

Ratings and Scorings

Confidentiality	Restricted 4-fig 29/12/2008 NGR
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Monument Types and Dates

FINDSPOT (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)

Evidence	FIND
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Associated Finds

FSF23925	COIN (13th century to 15th century - 1201 AD to 1400 AD)	SILVER
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Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Description and Sources

Description

1985: Metal detector find of Edward I 1d - obverse: EDWA`R` ANGEL. Minted in Canterbury (S1).

Sources

(M1) Unpublished document: Suffolk Archaeological Service. Parish file. (S1)
(S1) : NWHCM, Primary Record Card, November 1985

Land Use

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations

Kidd A, - Unassigned	Reported by	01/11/85
Pendleton, Colin - Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service	Compiler	21/7/98

SMR Number	SBK 004 - MSF3073	Site Name	Moat.
SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type	
SBK 004 - MSF3073	Moat.	Monument	
Moat.		Period	Med
Location			
National Grid Reference			
Centred TM 232 737 (170m by 150m)		TM27SW	Area
Administrative Areas			
Civil Parish	STRADBROKE, MID SUFFOLK, SUFFOLK		
Address/Historic Names - None recorded			
Designations, Statuses and Scorings			
Associated Legal Designations - None recorded			
Other Statuses and Cross-References			
SHINE Candidate (Probable)		Active	
Sites & Monuments Record - 3073		Active	
Parish Code - SBK 004		Active	
Ratings and Scorings			
Confidentiality	Not restricted	29/12/2008	
Monument Types and Dates			
MOAT (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)			
Evidence	EARTHWORK		
Finds - None recorded			
Associated Events/Activities			
ESF14052	Survey by OS (Event - Survey. Ref: OS)		
Description and Sources			
Description			
Moat. Portions of three sides with secondary enclosure, occupied. S side of village street (behind).			
Sources - None recorded			
Land Use			
Related Monuments - None Recorded			
Associated Individuals/Organisations			
West, Stanley - Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service		Compiler	

SMR Number SBK 021 - MSF1966 **Site Name** Land off Wilby Rd, Stradbroke

SMR Number	Site Name	Record Type
SBK 021 - MSF1966	Land off Wilby Rd, Stradbroke	Monument
Evaluation revealed 1 undated ditch.		Period UN

Location

National Grid Reference

Centred TM 2314 7366 (159m by 140m) TM27SW Area

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish STRADBROKE, MID SUFFOLK, SUFFOLK

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Legal Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References

SHINE Candidate (Possible)	Active
Parish Code - SBK 021	Active
Sites & Monuments Record - 19666	Active

Ratings and Scorings

Confidentiality Not restricted 29/12/2008

Monument Types and Dates

DITCH (Unknown date)

Associated Finds

FSF26590 POTTERY (Early Medieval/Dark Age - 410 AD to 1065 AD) CLAY

Associated Events/Activities

ESF18055 Evaluation (Event - Intervention. Ref:)

Description and Sources

Description

One undated ditch feature and 1 unstratified sherd of EMed pottery located during trenched evaluation (1999) of 1-2 ha area (S1).

Sources

(S1) Unpublished document: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service evaluation report. Tester, A. Davidson, S, SCCAS Report No. 99/13

Land Use

Related Monuments - None Recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations

Davidson, - Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service	Excavator	
Pendleton, Colin - Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service	Compiler	1999
Tester, Andrew - Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service	Excavator	